

Assembly Bill No. 1641

CHAPTER 293

An act to amend Section 68115 of the Government Code, relating to courts, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor September 3, 2003. Filed
with Secretary of State September 4, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1641, Keene. Court emergencies.

Existing law provides that, in times of emergency, as specified, the presiding judge of a superior court may request, and the Judicial Council may authorize, various emergency court procedures, including the extension of certain time periods in criminal and juvenile court cases.

This bill would expand existing provisions for the extension of certain time limits in juvenile court cases during natural and human-made disasters to apply to release and detention hearings for minors and hearings to declare a minor a ward or dependent child of the court. The bill would also provide for the declaration by a superior court, as authorized by the Chair of the Judicial Council, that a certain date or dates on which it was necessary to close a court constitute a judicial holiday for purposes of computing time in civil, criminal, and juvenile court cases, as specified.

The bill would declare that it is an urgency statute, to take effect immediately.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 68115 of the Government Code is amended to read:

68115. When war, insurrection, pestilence, or other public calamity, or the danger thereof, or the destruction of or danger to the building appointed for holding the court, renders it necessary, or when a large influx of criminal cases resulting from a large number of arrests within a short period of time threatens the orderly operation of a superior court location or locations within a county, the presiding judge may request and the Chair of the Judicial Council may, notwithstanding any other provision of law, by order authorize the court to do one or more of the following:

- (a) Hold sessions anywhere within the county.

(b) Transfer civil cases pending trial in the court to a superior court in an adjacent county. No transfer may be made pursuant to this subdivision except with the consent of all parties to the case or upon a showing by a party that extreme or undue hardship would result unless the case is transferred for trial. Any civil case so transferred shall be integrated into the existing caseload of the court to which it is transferred pursuant to rules to be provided by the Judicial Council.

(c) Declare that a date or dates on which an emergency condition, as described in this section, substantially interfered with the public's ability to file papers in a court facility or facilities be deemed a holiday for purposes of computing the time for filing papers with the court under Sections 12 and 12a. This subdivision shall apply to the fewest days necessary under the circumstances of the emergency, as determined by the Chair of the Judicial Council.

(d) Declare that a date on which an emergency condition, as described in this section, prevented the court from conducting proceedings governed by Section 825 of the Penal Code, or Section 313, 315, 631, 632, 637, or 657 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, be deemed a holiday for purposes of computing time under those statutes. This subdivision shall apply to the fewest days necessary under the circumstances of the emergency, as determined by the Chair of the Judicial Council.

(e) Within the affected county during a state of emergency resulting from a natural or human-made disaster proclaimed by the President of the United States or by the Governor pursuant to Section 8625 of the Government Code, extend the time period provided in Section 825 of the Penal Code within which a defendant charged with a felony offense shall be taken before a magistrate from 48 hours to not more than seven days, with the number of days to be designated by the Chair of the Judicial Council. This authorization shall be effective for 30 days unless it is extended by a new request and a new order.

(f) Extend the time period provided in Section 859b of the Penal Code for the holding of a preliminary examination from 10 court days to not more than 15 days.

(g) Extend the time period provided in Section 1382 of the Penal Code within which the trial must be held by not more than 30 days, but the trial of a defendant in custody whose time is so extended shall be given precedence over all other cases.

(h) Within the affected area of a county during a state of emergency resulting from a natural or human-made disaster proclaimed by the President of the United States or by the Governor pursuant to Section 8625 of the Government Code, extend the time period provided in Sections 313, 315, 632, and 637 of the Welfare and Institutions Code



within which a minor shall be given a detention hearing, with the number of days to be designated by the Chair of the Judicial Council. The extension of time shall be for the shortest period of time necessary under the circumstances of the emergency, but in no event shall the time period within which a detention hearing must be given be extended to more than seven days. This authorization shall be effective for 30 days unless it is extended by a new request and a new order. This subdivision shall apply only where the minor has been charged with a felony.

(i) Within the affected county during a state of emergency resulting from a natural or human-made disaster proclaimed by the President of the United States or by the Governor pursuant to Section 8625 of the Government Code, extend the time period provided in Sections 334 and 657 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which an adjudication on a juvenile court petition shall be held by not more than 15 days, with the number of days to be designated by the Chair of the Judicial Council. This authorization shall be effective for 30 days unless it is extended by a new request and a new order. This subdivision shall apply only where the minor has been charged with a felony.

SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to improve, as soon as possible, court procedures applicable in states of emergency, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

